

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying users of a plurality of computers within an organization's communications network by matching user identification information from an organization's directory information with user identification information and current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by a discovery apparatus, comprising:

a database storing the organization's directory information, the organization's directory information including user identification information but not requiring a list of devices;

a discovery apparatus for extracting user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses, having at least one connection to a ~~primary~~ switch in the communications network for passively monitoring traffic thru the ~~primary~~ switch; and

a server, connected to [the] a name discovery apparatus and having access to the database via the communications network, the server ~~having a server process~~ capable of matching the user identification information from the organization's directory information with the user identification information and current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by the discovery apparatus, ~~creating a relationship between the directory information and~~ automatically determining which contacts in the organization's directory information are currently using each of the extracted current Internet Protocol addresses of computers currently in use by a contact in the directory information.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the communications network is a local area network.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein the local area network is an Ethernet network.

4. (Deleted)

5. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a central repository, accessible by the discovery apparatus and a Web server, for storing the traffic monitored by the discovery apparatus.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the database is a formatted database.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the database contains the following fields of data: (i) First Name and Last Name; and (ii) electronic mail address and/or user name.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the server process is a Web server process capable of responding to browser-based queries to identify which user is using which computer.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 7, wherein the database also contains one of the following fields of data: (i) Middle Initial; (ii) Nick Names; (iii) Name Aliases; (iv) Building; (v) Room; (vi) Permanent E-mail; (vii) Temporary E-mail; or (viii) Affiliation/Organization; or (ix) any combination thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying users of a plurality of computers within an organization's communications network by matching user identification information from an organization's directory information with user identification information and current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by a discovery apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring traffic through a ~~primary~~ switch in the communications network;

extracting user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses from the monitored traffic;

accessing a database of the organization's directory information, the organization's directory information comprising user identification information but not requiring a list of devices; and

matching the user identification information from the organization's directory information with the user identification information and current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by the discovery apparatus, ~~creating a relationship between the directory information and current~~ automatically determining which contacts in the organization's directory information are currently using each of the extracted Internet Protocol addresses ~~of computers currently in use by a contact in the directory information.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of: storing the user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses in a central repository.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the steps of: accessing the central repository; and producing a data file, on a pre-determined time interval, the data file containing information on which user used which computer during the pre-determined time interval.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the extracting step comprises the step of:

using pattern matching based upon a known electronic mail protocol and/or authentication protocol to extract the electronic mail address and/or user name and associated Internet Protocol address from the monitored traffic.

14. (Deleted)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the communications network is a local area network.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the local area network is an Ethernet network.

17. (Deleted)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the database is a formatted database.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of: receiving, via the communications network, a query to identify a user of a computer within the communications network, the query including an Internet Protocol address; and responding to the query using the matching of a subset of the extracted Internet Protocol addresses with a subset of users, using the received Internet Protocol address.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the database contains the following fields of data: (i) First Name and Last Name; and (ii) electronic mail address and/or user name.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of: receiving, via the communications network, a query to identify a user of a computer within the communications network, the query including at least one of the fields of data; and responding to the query using the matching of a subset of the extracted Internet Protocol addresses to a subset of users and using a received field of data.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having instructions and control logic stored therein for causing a computer to execute instructions to identify users of a plurality of terminals within an organization's communications network by matching user identification information from an organization's directory information with user identification information and current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by a discovery apparatus, the control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing the computer to monitor traffic through a ~~primary~~ switch in the communications network;

second computer readable program code means for causing the computer to extract user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses from the monitored traffic;

third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to access a database of the organization's directory information, the organization's directory information comprising user identification information but not requiring a list of devices; and

fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to match the user identification information from the organization's directory information with the user identification information and current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by the discovery apparatus;

wherein the matching ~~creates a relationship between the directory information and current~~ automatically determines which contacts in the organization's directory information are currently using each of the extracted Internet Protocol addresses ~~of computers currently in use by a contact in the directory information.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 22, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to store the extracted user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses in a central repository.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 23, further comprising:

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to access the central repository; and

seventh computer readable program code means for causing the computer to create a data file, on a pre-determined time interval, the data file containing information on which user used which terminal during the pre-determined time interval.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 33, wherein the second computer readable program code means comprises:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to perform pattern matching based upon a known electronic mail protocol and/or authentication protocol to extract the electronic mail address and/or user name and the associated Internet Protocol address from the monitored traffic.

26. (Deleted)

27. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 22, wherein the database is a formatted database.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 22, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive, via the communications network, a query to identify a user of a terminal within the communications network, the query including an Internet Protocol address; and

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to respond to the query using the matching of a subset of the extracted Internet Protocol addresses with a subset of users, using a received Internet Protocol address.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 22, wherein the database contains the following fields of data: (i) First Name and Last Name; and (ii) electronic mail address and/or user name.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 29, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive, via the communications network, a query to identify a user of a terminal within the communications network, the query including a field of data; and

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to respond to the query using the matching of a subset of the extracted Internet Protocol addresses with a subset of users, using the fields of data.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the user identification includes an electronic mail address and/or a user name.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the user identification includes an electronic mail address and/or a user name.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 22, wherein the user identification includes an electronic mail address and/or a user name.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the database also contains one of the following fields of data: (i) Middle Initial; (ii) Nick Names; (iii) Name Aliases; (iv) Building; (v) Room; (vi) Permanent E-mail; (vii) Temporary E-mail; or (viii) Affiliation/Organization; or (ix) any combination thereof.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the database also contains one of the following fields of data: (i) Middle Initial; (ii) Nick Names; (iii) Name Aliases; (iv) Building; (v) Room; (vi) Permanent E-mail; (vii) Temporary E-mail; or (viii) Affiliation/Organization; or (ix) any combination thereof.